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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our mighty rock, You have promised to supply all our needs. Today, give our lawmakers wisdom that they may know what to do. Give them courage to accomplish Your will. Give them skill to navigate through life's inevitable challenges. Give them perseverance to not become weary in doing well. Give them strength to resist all the temptations which would lure them from Your plan. Help each of us to begin to continue and to end all things in You.

Thank You for answering our prayers, for You are our strong shield, and we place our trust in You. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 28, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a

Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SUNUNU thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

Mr. FRIST. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will begin with a period of morning business for 60 minutes. Following that time, we will resume consideration of S. 397, the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms legislation. Senator KOHL has an amendment pending related to trigger locks, and there will be an hour of debate on that amendment prior to the vote. That vote should begin before noon, in the next 2½ hours. The managers will continue to work through the day to see what additional amendments are ready for votes. The cloture vote could be as early as 1 a.m. Friday morning. We haven't set the vote for that time. I mention that early hour only to highlight the fact that we have so much work to do.

We have conference reports, the gun liability bill, nominations, all of which we need to accomplish before we leave for the recess. We have the Interior ap-

propriations conference report that has the veterans health money in it that we have addressed before. We have the energy conference report, which I believe is very close; the highway conference report, which has not been filed yet but which will be hopefully later today. We have the Legislative appropriations conference report. Once we address the pending bill, we can hopefully expedite completion of all of the remaining measures prior to the August break. I will be working with the Democratic leader to schedule these important items over the next couple of days.

Mr. KENNEDY. Will the leader be good enough to yield for a question?

Mr. FRIST. I am happy to yield.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, several of us have amendments directly related to the underlying legislation. We understand the time goes to 1 o'clock this evening. I have two amendments dealing with the ability of terrorists to purchase weapons. I know both Senators from New Jersey have amendments. We are more than willing to enter into short time agreements. We want to cooperate on the conference reports, but we understand the process and the procedure that is going on is that the majority is making a judgment decision about which amendments we are going to consider and which ones we are not.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in response to our distinguished colleague from Massachusetts, there have been several filed amendments. I mentioned 1 o'clock today because then we will have the whole universe of filed amendments. We are going to proceed and have a rollcall vote on the trigger lock amendment before noon today, and then we need to look at each of the amendments. Including the amendments mentioned, Senator LEVIN has an amendment, Senator LAUTENBERG, and the Senator from Massachusetts has filed two amendments. We will be looking at those amendments over the course of the day.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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